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Ecomedia
BULLETIN

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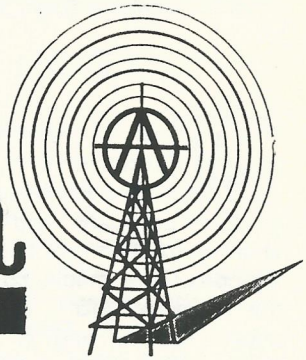


"Radio is my bomb"

AIDS quarantine in B.C.

In the province of British Colombia, fascist legislation is practically a reality. "Bill 34" has recieved it's third and final reading in the B.C. legislature and now only needs 'Royal Assent' to become law - Bill 34 is an AIDS quarantine law. Under Bill 34, the B.C. government would have the power to imprison a person with AIDS. This type of fascism is spreading across the world since it was first suggested by Lyndon Larouche several years ago in the United States. Already many states in the U.S. have quarantine laws. Sweden now has an entire island for imprisoning people with AIDS. Instead of treating AIDS as a serious problem that requires massive public education and non-animal research, AIDS is being treated as a crime. A Florida prostitute, carrying the AIDS virus, is being charged with attempted manslaughter, despite the fact that her clients used condoms. *(Gay Community News, Jan.17,1988)*

On December 8,1987, the day that Bill 34 passed the third reading, a Vancouver activist, John Kozachenko, who has ARC-AIDS related complex, hurled a sign onto the floor of the legislature which read "NO AIDS QUARANTINE". He shouted: "I have AIDS and I want my rights! AIDS quarantine will only force AIDS underground and you will be dealing with this epidemic in 5 years and 10 years time. Their blood will be on your hands." He tried to reach the Bill to symbolically tear it up, but was stopped by security guards. He was detained but no charges were laid. Later he told reporters: "The last option is civil disobedience. The Minister hasn't listened to us. He's a car salesman." The Health Minister, Peter Duek, had ammended Bill 34 to read that the quarantine law would only apply to those who "willfully, carelessly, or because of mental incompetence" expose people to the disease. But that simply isn't good enough because the people who will be enforcing the law - the police and the judges - have a long history of defining, in their own terms, who is and is not "mentally incompetent". As John Kozachenko says: "I refuse to live in fear of being jailed, or quarantined at their whim." In fact, he has now left the province because of this threat to his life. *(Vancouver Sun, Dec.9,87. Angles,Jan,88)*

(see "SELF AUTONOMY AND AIDS", pg 2)

Omori's Appeal Denied

Katsuhisa Omori, the political prisoner on Death Row in Japan, was again sentenced to die January 21. This judgement was supposed to be his final appeal. He was arrested in 1976, and accused of bombing the first floor offices of a Hokkaido government office building in Sapporo City. The verdict was passed from a collection of *admittedly* circumstantial evidence presented by the prosecution. There is no real evidence pointing to his guilt yet he has been in solitary confinement for the past 11 years. Demonstrations in his support were held worldwide last month, and demands for his release will increase with news of his impending execution. (*Anarchist Black Cross, Toronto.*)

Self Autonomy and AIDS

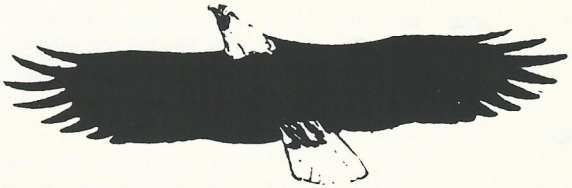
What we, as individuals, must try to do, is understand how and why repressive laws come into being. Fear is political. In a climate of fear, politicians and reactionaries manipulate the situation for their own benefit, and to promote their own agendas. The media co-operates by sensationalizing the issue of AIDS, combining blatant homophobia, subtle racism, and a smug anti-sex moralism to reinforce their message of fear. With the use of fear, the general public is easily manipulated into following orders, obeying laws, and behaving like good, moral citizens. Frightened people look up to the authorities for guidance and reassurance. But the state does not act in the interests of the people. Especially not gay people, Black or Hispanic people, I.V. drug users, nor prostitutes. In fact, it is in the government's interest to let these people die. If not for the fact that AIDS is hitting the straight, white population; the 'good citizens' of North America, we would never see even the smallest efforts put towards combatting the disease (just look at government inaction around the tuberculosis epidemic amongst the poor Native population of Lubicon Lake to see how little they care). After all, the government must appear to be doing something with your tax dolllars! But as they play politics with the multi-national drug manufacturing corporations (after all, someone has to make the profits.), we are seeing the formation of AIDS "guerrilla clinics" . People are learning that, if you want to get something done, you must not rely on a higher authority; you must do it yourself. The guerrilla clinics are treating people with AIDS with drugs and herbs, some of which the multi-national drug companies won't touch because the substances can't be patented, and therefore, no profits can be made. AIDS education is also being spread most effectively by community groups, rather than by any government agency. AIDS is a serious problem. It's too serious to wait for governments to make up their minds about how much money to spend. And locking people/the problem away under government quarantine laws only shows us the real intentions of the state.

*(based on ideas from **"An Anarchist Response to AIDS"** by Bru Dye, printed in AQUA, P.O.Box 1251, Canal St. Stn, NY,NY. 10013, USA. For anti-statist ideas on the origins of the disease AIDS, see Covert Action Information Bulletin #28 ($3.50 U.S. from PO Box 50272, Washington DC 20004.)*

INDIGENOUS STRUGGLES

AKWESASNE - The **Mohawk** people of Akwesasne on the Canadian side of the border, at Cornwall, want to expand their nation and become the first of the European-established Indian reserves to have **full and unequivocal self-government**. Mike Mitchell who is chief of the traditional Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, said in an interview *"I may have to arrest an OPP officer out there on the river before I get jurisdiction established."*

NORTH CAROLINA - Two Indian men took **7 hostages** in Lumberton, North Carolina Monday, in a newspaper office, to try to focus attention on the **injustices** that have been happening in the area. During the 10 hour standoff, they said they would surrender to Federal agents after they stated their concerns for a new investigation into the **death of a Black inmate** at Robson County Jail. They are seeking an investigation by authorities from outside the



country. The men also demanded a federal investigation of several **shootings by police officers**. This includes the death of an Indian killed in 1986 by a Robson County deputy, who is the Sheriff's son. They asked for the release of an Indian held in jail, and outside investigation of the county government and the Sheriff's department, which they say is riddled with **corruption and racism**. The hostages were released unharmed after 10 hours. One of the hostages said that one of the men *"repeatedly told the hostages that he didn't want to hurt anybody... He said he was very sorry that this had to come down to this."*

Ideas on Anarchism

Q: *It seems to me that "class struggle" divides people when we should be working together. Bosses and workers share common needs such as food, air, water, shelter, and social interaction. Aren't bosses people too?*

A: It's true that as a human being, even the most despicable tyrant holds those needs in common with the rest of humanity. But do we also share the power to control our work and our lives? The bosses have the power to give or take away the paycheque through which, in a capitalist society, we can afford to buy our food and shelter. The boss also has the power to control the conditions of our work, the time of our work, the pace of our work, etc. - always with the threat of unemployment and/or poverty to maintain this control. This is the key difference between bosses and workers: the former have the power to control the lives of the latter. Plain and simple.

To recognize the existence of these class divisions doesn't mean that we fortify them. That's like saying that by recognizing the existence of nuclear weapons, one is making them exist. Turning a blind eye to a problem more often worsens the problem than solves it. In fact, it's only through recognizing a problem that it can be solved. Class struggle is in fact a move to break down those divisions by reclaiming control over our lives and creating a society in which none of us has power over others. It is bosses who, in refusing to give up their privileged position, maintain divisive social relations. If the bosses and the state didn't deliberately maintain this inequality, there would be no need for class struggle, and we could turn instead to working together for our common good.

ALBERTA - Ottawa may take the provincial government of Alberta to court if the **Lubicon Lake land claim** isn't settled soon, said Indian Affairs Minister, William McKnight. He said that he will call a Federal inquiry or take Alberta to court if hopes for a settlement in the 48 year old land claim remain dim. It seems as though "Indian Affairs" is trying to pass off the blame and responsibility for the stagnation of the negotiations to someone else. *(Globe and Mail, 2/2/88)*

POLITICAL THUGS

With the renewal of **Canadian aid** to the ruling government in **Guatemala**, it is appropriate to look at exactly what actions the Canadian "foreign aid" supports. The army in Guatemala admits destroying 440 Indian villages nationwide during the late 70's and early 80's. *Americas Watch*, the New York based human rights group estimates **100,000 people killed** and **38,000 "disappeared"** as a result of the military's attempt to wipe out resistance. During these years roughly **150,000 Guatemalans fled** to Mexico to escape the violence. People captured during army sweeps of the mountains were routinely taken to **military relocation compounds** called "model villages". Tens of thousands of Indians still live in these centres. *And they call **us** political thugs...*

VIGILS FOR GUATEMALA

Grupo Appyo Mutuo (GAM), a human rights organization struggling to find out the whereabouts of their **illegally detained/disappeared relatives** in Guatemala, is holding demonstrations on the **first Friday of each month** to oppose Canadian bilateral aid to Guatema until fundamental changes take place in Guatemala. The vigils are held at 10 Trinity Square, Holy Trinity Church, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, and all are invited.

M E D I A W A T C H

If you see an item on the mass media which you believe inaccurate, noteworthy or in need of additional comment, please send us your comments. Please supply location of newspaper items, and datte and station of bradcast for items from electronic media.

TORONTO - We read in the *Toronto Star* (16-1-88 p.D6) that every day 5.5 people in **Mozambique** and **Angola** face death by starvation due to *"a deadly mix of chronic poverty, ignorance, inefficient forced collectivization, drought, civil war, pest infestation, refugee problems, and exhaustion of fertile land."* It's a pity the Star doesn't round out the picture by reminding us that the **civil war**, which is the direct or indirect cause of most of these problems, is caused by the **U.S.A.** and the **Union of South Africa** sponsoring **guerrillas** whose main goal is to prevent the country from stabilizing. This also explains why a Canadian government busy toading to U.S. policy is unlikely to raise significantly it's foreign aid commitments to these countries.

WHY BILL C-54? - The Toronto Star informs us that many Canadians back Bill C-54, the so-called antiporn bill (24-1-88 pB4.) This article is accompanied by pictures from various magazines showing naked children, **which are labelled "kiddie porn."** If the liberal press **cannot distinguish between nudity and pornography,** it is unlikely that the courts will either. The article, like most comments on Bill C-54, igniores the true purpose of the bill, which is **to criminalize every bookseller, librarian and art dealer** in Canada and then allow the state to decide which ones to persecute. The extra power this will give the state is incalculable.

SPARING US THE BAD NEWS - By now we're all aware that the climate is seriously changing. To its credit, the program **The Greenhouse Effect** (Vista, TV Ontario 25-1-88) provided a serious scientific explanation of how polluting the air and cutting down the rain forest causes the planet to become warmer, and may result in a melting polar ice cap **flooding costal areas** in the next fifty or so years. At this point , however, things got rather silly, with a long discussion of whether it would be easier to **surround PEI with dikes** or move the population someplace else. Either solution might save the 128,000 PElers (perhaps the abandoning of PEI could be timed to coincide with completion of the mainland causeway), but what about the millions who live in major coastal cities.

The program made no attempt to assess the impoact of coastal flooding in conjunction with the **other environmental disasters** which are likely to occur at about the same time, such as decreased rainfall when the rain forests are gone turning interior regions into deserts (already happening in Africa, with thousands dying of starvation in consequence) and decreased ability to transport food long distances as energy supplies dwindle. With their own food supplies threatened, how likely are interior dwellers to welcome refugees from flooded coastal regions? Vista skirted all these questions, talking blithely about increased agriculture in Canada's north and leaving us with the impression that we will be able to live with the climate changes wrought **by corporate capitalism.**

WHO PRISONS SERVE - We read in the Toronto Star (17-1-88 pA12) that Canada's prisons are giving up plans to replace uneducated guards with college graduates interested in rehabilitative work due to pressure from union officials and patronage-minded politicians. Now that we're all clear on who the prison system exists to serve, perhaps recruiting posters for guards could be simplified to something like: "Wanted-Sadists."

THE *ECOMEDIA BULLETIN*

The **Ecomedia Bulletin** is a bi-weekly publication of the Ecomedia Toronto office. The Toronto group is a local autonomous office of the **Ecomedia Network**, an international activist/anarchist "wire service".

Ecomedia can also be heard on radio. We broadcast reports 3 times a week on CKLN 88.1 FM. If you live in or near the Toronto area, tune in on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays between 11 AM and 12 noon** on the *Newswave* show, and on **Wednesday** afternoons at **4 PM.**

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